

Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Fall 2004



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR LINDA V. PARKER ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

VOTE! November 2, 2004

You can check your status as a registered voter, check your polling place and get a sample ballot by going to www.sospublius.org.

If you need to register to vote in Michigan you must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- at least 18 years of age by election day
- a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote

Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- age 60 years old or older
- unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- expecting to be out of town on election day
- in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons

- appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

Your request for an absentee voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to your city or township clerk. Your request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated above and your signature. You may request an absentee voter ballot with a letter or post card, or you can obtain a pre-printed application form at your local clerk's office. Requests to have an absentee voter ballot mailed to you must be submitted to your clerk no later than 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election.

Once your request is received by the local clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. Requests for absentee voter ballots are processed immediately. Absentee voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any address outside of your city or township of residence.

After receiving your absentee voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on election day to complete the ballot and return it

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Judy Karandjeff, Executive Director • Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist • Florine Davis, Secretary • Lily Davidson, Student Assistant

Vote!

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"I would like to go up to the polls myself. I own a little house in Battle Creek, Michigan. Well, every year I got a tax to pay. Taxes, you see, be taxes... Well, there was women there had a house as well as I. They taxed them to build a road, and they went on the road and worked. It took 'em a good while to get a stump up. Now that shows that women can work. If they can dig up stumps they can vote. It is easier to vote than dig stumps." From a speech by Sojourner Truth, 1867

On election day in 1872, Sojourner Truth attempted to vote in Michigan, but was refused a ballot when she requested one. She died on November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek, Michigan, at age eighty-six, still unable to vote.

to the clerk's office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absentee voter ballot to your clerk's office.

If an emergency, such as a sudden illness or family death, prevents you from reaching the polls on election day, you may request an emergency absent voter ballot. Requests for an emergency ballot must be submitted after the deadline for regular absentee voter ballots has passed but before 4 p.m. on election day. The emergency must have occurred at a time

which made it impossible for you to apply for a regular absentee voter ballot. Your local clerk will have more information about emergency absentee voter ballots.

In Michigan, your voter registration for all federal, state, and local elections is maintained by your local city or township clerk. You register to vote at your clerk's office. Voters may also register to vote by mail or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office. In addition, specified agencies providing services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Career Development offer voter registration services to their clients. Military recruitment centers also provide voter registration services.

You must register at least 30 days before the election – October 4, 2004.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

During the 1970s there was a catchy Philip Morris cigarette advertisement which suggested liberated women smoked "Virginia Slims." The commercial featured attractive, cosmopolitan-looking women strutting down the street - cigarette in hand - with a voiceover stating: "You've come a long way baby!"

Well, by 1970 American women had come a long way; 34-years later, we've come even further, but still have a way to go.

Thursday, August 26th, was "Women's Equality Day:" the 84th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

Counting from the first women's suffrage meeting in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, it took 72 years for women to obtain the right to vote. Yet even as we celebrate that seminal moment in our nation's history, we know the battle for women's equality is far from over.

Of all the resources available to women in this nation to advance the cause of equality, none perhaps is more empowering than the right to vote. The Center for American Women and Politics notes that nationwide 80 women hold statewide elective executive offices in 2004. In fact, women hold 25.4% of the 315 available positions. However, if this number were to reflect the number of women in the population, women would hold more than 150 of those positions. (www.cawp.rutgers.edu)

Yet, in the last presidential election in 2000, 40 million eligible female voters did not go to the polls and of that group, more than half - 22 million of those women - were single. And according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, in 2000, 71.9% of Michigan's women were registered to vote, yet only 56.3% of them voted.

Still there are currently nine women who serve as governors in the states of Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana and Utah. In U.S. history, only 26 women have ever served as Governor.

Jennifer M. Granholm became Michigan's first female Governor on January 1, 2003, following 46 men who served before her for more than 165 years.

By 2004, Michigan had elected only six women to statewide elective executive office positions, not including various boards of education. These women included Governor Granholm as Governor and Attorney General, Terri Lynn Land and Candice Miller as Secretaries of State and Connie Binsfeld, Martha Griffiths and Matilda Wilson as Lieutenant Governors. Governor Granholm

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Celebrating Women's Equality Day

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and Secretary of State Land currently serve in statewide elective offices.

Michigan also has one woman serving as U.S. Senator, Debbie Stabenow, and two women serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Candice Miller and Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick. Five other women have served Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives: Lynn Rivers, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Rose-Collins, Martha Griffiths and Ruth Thompson.

The state currently has the most women in its history serving in the Michigan Senate, with 11 women serving out of 38 members. Michigan has 24 women serving in the Michigan House of Representatives out of 110 members. This number is lower than in 1997-2000, when there were 31 women.

According to the White House Project, an organization promoting female leadership in government, one explanation for these numbers is that women often wait to be asked to run for office before getting involved in politics. (www.thewhitehouseproject.org) Consider this your invitation:

Are you registered to vote?

Have you considered running for office?

Have you asked a woman to run for office?

The 15 governor-appointed members of the Michigan Women's Commission

(MWC) serve as an example of women who answer yes to these questions. They encourage you to do the same. Commission members have been mayors, county officials, party delegates and advocates. As a result, the MWC has been instrumental in addressing issues of domestic violence, displaced homemakers, childcare and numerous other issues confronting women.

The commission hopes to inform and inspire Michigan women to take action at the polls in 2004. When women vote and seek elected positions, we can address some of the issues adversely impacting them and their families, such as the lack of pay equity, unintended pregnancy, and discrimination and welfare policies.

No one can dispute that we have indeed come a long way. But there remains much work to be done to motivate more women to join the political process and to make our democracy stronger by truly reflecting the interests of all of our citizens.

As a poster hanging on the office wall of one of my colleagues says so simply and, yet, so powerfully:

"When women vote, women win!"

Judy Karandjeff, Executive Director, MI Women's Commission

Welcome and Thank You!

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has appointed the following women to the Michigan Women's Commission on September 3, 2004:

Ms. Gail J. Glezen of Sault Ste. Marie, assistant housing director of Bay Mills Indian Community Housing Authority and a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community. Ms. Glezen is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2007. She succeeds Judith Schwalbach whose term has expired.

Ms. Patricia M. Lowrie of Okemos, director of the Women's Resource Center at Michigan State University. Ms. Lowrie is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2007. She succeeds G. Kaye Grubba whose term has expired.

Ms. Alexandra S. Matish of Ann Arbor, assistant general counsel at Wayne State University. Ms. Matish is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2007. She succeeds Judi Clark whose term has expired.

Ms. Emily A. Stoddard Malloy of Haslett, editor-in-chief for The Red Cedar Log at Michigan State University. Ms. Malloy is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2006. She succeeds Karen Williams who has resigned.

Ms. Sally Shaheen Joseph of Flint, attorney in private practice. Ms. Shaheen Joseph is reappointed for a term expiring July 15, 2007.

Ms. Cheryl B. Sugerman of Ann Arbor, teacher and middle school coordinator for Beth Israel Congregation. Ms. Sugerman is reappointed for a term expiring July 15, 2007.

We thank the following members for their service on the Michigan Women's Commission: Commissioners Judi Clark, Kaye Grubba, Judi Schwalbach and Karen Patricia Williams, Ph.D. Judi Clark served on the commission since 2000 and has been an effective advocate for stricter laws against the use of Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, since the death of her 15-year-old daughter Samantha. Kaye Grubba was appointed in 2000 and is the Register of Deeds in Shiawassee County. Judi Schwalbach was appointed in 2000, is the mayor of Escanaba and a small business owner. Karen Patricia Williams, Ph.D. was appointed in 2003 and is an assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Biology, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University in East Lansing. Thank you for your work on behalf of Michigan's women.

Women in Transportation

Even as a girl growing up in Detroit, State Transportation Director Gloria J. Jeff believed there was nothing a young woman could not accomplish. "It had been my dream to be an astronaut since Alan Shepherd roared into space," she recalls. "I thought to achieve this I would have to design a rocket ship which only I could fly since no one in the space program looked like me: African American or female. I was not able to become an astronaut, but I was able to pursue a career in civil engineering, a career I chose because it gave me the most options. I could be involved in changing peoples' lives in a tangible way every day."

Appointed director of the Michigan Department of Transportation by Gov. Granholm in February 2003, Jeff is the first woman and the first African American to hold the position. She earned undergraduate and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as a master's degree in urban planning from U of M.

"One of the career options I considered as a high school senior was urban planning," says Jeff. "When I was young, my godparents lived in Detroit's Black Bottom. They had to move and were told that the old housing would be torn down and that new, affordable

housing would be built. The new housing was constructed but it was not affordable for the families who had been displaced. When I asked who had done this, I was told 'urban planners.' I thought it was wrong and wanted to become a planner so that this type of decision was not made again. It was divine intervention that the civil engineering program at Michigan had a municipal engineering specialty which enabled me to combine the discipline and rigor of engineering with the human and policy analysis components of urban planning."

When Jeff talks about careers in transportation, she tells young people that transportation offers incredible opportunities. "I can't think of a more relevant, rewarding career," she says. Today, says Jeff, about one-fifth of all new engineers are female, a number that has risen steadily since 1965. In December 2000, she chaired a Task Force on Women's Issues in Transportation for the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a unit of the National Research Council, the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering.

"We found that there was little research or information on the nature of career paths of women in transportation," she recalls. "However, it is encouraging

to know that just in this past decade, there has been an increase in the number of women who hold administrative positions in the field of transportation. There are also substantial numbers of women who run their own businesses or are very successful in the private sector of transportation."

At MDOT, 15 top administrative posts currently are held by women. In addition, two of the six members of the State Transportation Commission are women and one of those is vice chair. Jeff notes that there are more women and more people of color in the transportation industry since she began her engineering career in 1976. "There are greater opportunities than before because women and people of color have a track record of success. It is not as completely appreciated as it ought to be, but good progress has been made," she says.

Jeff would like to see a greater utilization of the disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) and woman business enterprise (WBE) programs that have been established in state and federal law. "We need to recognize that these firms can do the work and that you don't use them simply because you are trying to fill a statutory requirement," she says. "But there is more openness today within the construction industry

to look beyond state and federal requirements and through the working relationships that those programs foster, in order to realize that these are quality teammates who really add value to the work that needs to be done."

Through the years, Jeff has mentored "a couple dozen" young women who wanted to pursue transportation careers. She continues to chair a TRB committee on women's transportation issues that is currently organizing the Third Conference on Women's Transportation Issues to be held this November in Chicago. She also serves on the advisory board for WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar), a national organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation.

"Challenges have been the stepping stone of my career," she says. "I have had individuals question whether I was an engineer, much less a female African American engineer. I no longer take responsibility for the negative feelings of others but instead only focus on positive learning experiences. This has made me a better engineer, leader and person."

*Gloria Jeff, Director,
Department of Transportation*

FIA Working to Break the Cycle of Poverty

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day this year, we have much to recognize in terms of the advancement of women in our society. Yet, when it comes to poverty related issues, women still face enormous hurdles and, in many cases, challenges that are much greater than those faced by many men.

In the United States, women are more likely than men to live in poverty. Nationally in 2001, 12.9 percent of the female population and 10.4 percent of the male population lived below the poverty level.

In Michigan during this period, 616,243 females lived below the national poverty status, approximately 12 percent of all Michigan women. In the U.S., poverty rates are higher for females than for males at every age among people of every race and origin.

Nationally in 2000, almost one in three female-headed families were in poverty, nearly double the rate for male-headed families and more than five times the rate for married couples.

In public assistance circles there is an axiom about women, children and poverty – that a family headed by a single woman, or a woman whose husband has left, is far more likely to live in poverty than an intact two-parent family.

In Michigan, this is borne out by data. The Family Independence Program

– which was formerly called Aid to Family with Dependent Children – overwhelmingly serves single parent households with children. About 93 percent of these cases are in households headed by a single female. During the past 10 years, that figure has varied from 93-95 percent.

As can be seen in the data, poverty has a disproportionate impact on women in large part because of the role women continue to play as the principal caregivers for children. In this regard, we have many challenges and opportunities to help women and their families break the cycle of poverty. These include:

Child Care

The need to help women find affordable, quality child care near their home or work so they can complete their education and/or obtain jobs that can be self-sustaining. Michigan's Child Development and Care Program helps low-income families pay for child care while parents work, participate in approved education and employment preparation programs, or attend high school completion classes.

Domestic Violence and Treatment

Help women facing domestic violence find aid and safe places to leave damaging relationships and end the cycle of violence. The Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and

Treatment Board (MDVPTB) was established within the Michigan Family Independence Agency in 1978. The MDVPTB is committed to treating survivors with dignity and respect and to providing them the support and advocacy necessary to realize their right to self-determination.

Child Support Services

Help assure that child support gets to the custodial parents (most often, mothers) to provide for the care of their children. Services provided by Michigan's child support program include:

- Assistance with application for child support services.
- Locating parents.
- Establishing paternity.
- Establishing court orders for custody, support and parenting time.
- Collecting and processing child support payments.
- Enforcing court orders for custody, support and parenting time.
- Working with other states to enforce support when one parent does not live in Michigan.

Fathers and Parenting

Involve fathers in parenting and help strengthen their families. A pilot program – called "Dads from Day One" – was initiated by the Family Independence Agency and it is aimed at

strengthening parent-child relationships and increasing successful collection of child support. Beginning with paternity acknowledgement in hospitals, the project provides services to both parents so they can better support their child.

Family Planning

Help those girls and women in our system to make sure they know the alternatives to bearing and raising children so that they can make more informed choices in their lives. Government and communities share deep concern over the continuing rise of teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock births. It is logical that we join forces to address this problem together. That is why FIA and the Michigan Department of Community Health have joined with communities to ensure that pregnant teens, and teen parents, have access to information and services to reduce future unplanned pregnancies. Those services and information include pilot contracts for family planning, transitional living, pregnancy prevention and parenting skills training.

While the challenges are great, the opportunities are also many. There is much that we can and are doing to help make women's lives better for them and for society at large.

*Marianne Udow, Director,
Michigan Family
Independence Agency*

Women in Corrections

The struggle for gender equality is a daily and unending task for many women. In celebration of Women's Equality Day we should honor those women whose efforts have earned us the career opportunities we now enjoy.

One of the first questions I am often asked by a new acquaintance is, "Are you the only woman director of corrections?" In fact, I am one of six in the nation although I am the first in the State of Michigan. I have been blessed with supportive co-workers and leaders throughout my tenure with corrections. I didn't blaze any trails to be the first director. Those trails were forged long before I got here.

The women who were the true pioneers have done the work ahead of me. It's not just the first wardens and supervisors, but the many women who were the first front-line corrections officers. It took tremendous courage for them to choose

to work in corrections and even more resolve to take the next step and insist that they have the right to work in male housing units. There are some states that do not allow women in the units today.

Introducing women corrections officers in male housing units opened up an opportunity for advancement that was not previously available to women in the department. Promotions for women were artificially limited because they were unable to gain the experience and training that went to men working in those units.

Those first officers are the women who lived through confrontations and resistance. They ventured into a new territory for women. They had to simultaneously prove themselves to their co-workers and superiors as well as to the prisoners they supervised.

Research shows that nationally women are

less likely than men to be employed in some of the highest-paying occupations. That is one reason why the introduction of women in housing units is so significant. That first step allowed women to steadily rise up in the ranks and eventually reach the top echelons of management.

The Department of Corrections' culture has been changing over the past decades. It began with my predecessors who took the time to listen to what corrections employees were saying. It has evolved into a more compassionate type of leadership that has turned the tide at this department, whether that leader is male or female. This is a reflection of what is happening in society and in our culture and it is what the workforce needs to be successful.

The Michigan Department of Corrections is recognized nationally as being a well-run organization and I believe part of that reputation stems from an

evolving leadership style that includes women in top management. This department has many women at leadership levels including a deputy director, regional supervisors and wardens. This is a direct reflection of the number of competent and qualified women in the department.

It must have been extremely difficult for those first female corrections officers to prove to their male counterparts that they could do the job and be counted on for their safety. Their efforts along with those of millions of women have led the way for increased equality in the workplace.

Because we are still in a transition phase, I will continue to be singled out for being the first woman director. However, when people stop being startled by my position, we will have reached another level of acceptance and equality.

Patricia L. Caruso, Director, Michigan Department of Corrections

Women and Information Technology

On August 26, our nation celebrates Women's Equality Day in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote. It is especially appropriate in this presidential election year to think about how far we have progressed as a society toward gender equality, and commit to action in areas where we still have room to improve.

Women have made great strides in the workforce overall, moving into management and owning businesses in increasing numbers. But women continue to be underrepresented in higher paid occupations such as engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Women are entering computer science degree programs in greater numbers, but lag behind men in degree completion.

As the Director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology, I am both concerned and hopeful about these statistics. Concerned because I know there are powerful cultural factors influencing the low percentage of women in these fields, and hopeful because I see increasing support in our society for young women who do choose to enter these traditionally male dominated occupations.

Governor Granholm's focus on jobs and economic growth in Michigan makes this a workforce issue for us all. The workforce of the 21st Century must succeed in a knowledge and technology-based economy, and the young women of Michigan can be on the forefront of that success.

What are the concrete actions we can take to increase the number of women in the fields of

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Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.nbcam.org).

Wear a pink ribbon and get screened.

Women's Cancer Screening Program in Michigan

Since 1991, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has implemented a comprehensive Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) through a multi-year grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With these funds, low-income women now have access to life-saving cancer screening services and follow-up care, including cancer treatment if that should be needed.

Through this program, women who have breast and cervical cancer will be identified at earlier stages of these diseases, when treatment is less expensive and the survival rate is more favorable. Working

together, participating medical providers and local health agencies can ensure that the highest quality breast and cervical cancer control services are available to all women in their communities.

Where Are These Services Available?

Women throughout Michigan may seek these services from local health departments and over 700 contracted BCCCP providers across the state. Services are also available through tribal health clinics of federally recognized Indian tribes.

A woman's usual health care provider may encourage the woman to take advantage of this program. In addition, any Michigan woman ages 40 through 64 can

call (toll-free) 800-922-MAMM to obtain a phone number for the BCCCP local coordinating agency closest to her home. The local agency will assess each woman for program eligibility, based upon age and income, and will provide an appointment to a health care provider or clinic near her home.

For the name and number of the local BCCCP agency nearest you, call (toll-free) 800-922-MAMM.

Provider Participation

BCCCP services are coordinated through 20 local health departments across Michigan, as well as the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. These agencies have enlisted the cooperation and participation of physicians, hospitals, and other health

care organizations in their communities to assure that all necessary follow-up services are provided.

Local agencies are required to provide or arrange for basic screening services, i.e., clinical breast exams, screening mammograms, pelvic exams, Pap smears, and patient education.

Some local agencies are delivering these basic services through their existing or expanded department staff. Others are providing the basic services through subcontracts with community providers. Local agencies usually contract with radiology facilities to provide mammography services to enrolled women, as well as with clinical laboratories to analyze Pap tests.

Women and Information Technology

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engineering, mathematics, and technology?

- **Mentor a young woman.** Encourage her to visualize herself succeeding in these fields, help her commit to her math and science studies, and show her role models for achievement. Knowing that you believe in her abilities will be a powerful message. I've been involved in mentoring for some time now and find that the rewards are just as great for me as they are for the young

woman that I mentor.

- **Work with school districts and teachers to provide meaningful science and technology programming for girls.** Because the computer industry targets software and games to boys more than girls, we must work harder to ensure that girls engage with technology. Schools can play a pivotal role in overcoming cultural biases.
- **Identify existing support in your community.** Women's

professional groups often have occupation-focused mentoring programs, scholarships, and student chapters; the Association for Women in Computing (AWC) is a good example. I have found that this association and others like it offer the type of feedback and network that can help young women succeed...it's a real asset to have a sounding board with people dealing with similar circumstances.

Women will have a major impact on Michigan's economy of the future. As we pause to recognize

the contributions of women in the past, let us acknowledge and support the women of the future, poised and ready to pick up the torch. To each young woman in Michigan, I issue this challenge: Imagine yourself as a scientist, mathematician, or engineer. Believe that you can change the future of technology. Take the steps necessary to prepare yourself for the 21st Century economy. There are many unblazed trails for you to explore.

*Theresa Takai, Director,
Department of Information
and Technology*

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CALENDAR

October 4, Monday – Deadline to register to vote

October 16, Saturday – the Detroit Historical Museum opens a nationally touring exhibit “Enterprising Women.” Go to detroithistorical.org for more information.

October 28, Thursday – “Celebration of Michigan Women,” Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, Sheraton Detroit-Nov. Call (517)484-1880 for more information.

November 2, Tuesday – General Election, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

December 8, Wednesday – Michigan Women’s Commission meeting and public hearing, Lansing. For more information go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr

Mailing List Update

If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax the correct information (along with your current label) to the address or fax number listed below. You can also email us at MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Education with contributions from the foundation community has created an expanded “READY” kit of important early literacy information for parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This year, the kit features health, nutrition, and development information as well as reading information on the importance of early child development. For more information see www.michigan.gov/greatstart/.